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NRSM 110.01: First Year Seminar- Environmental Science and Sustainability

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SYLLABUS – NRSM 110 – Fall 2021

First Year Seminar: Environmental Science and Sustainability

- Professors: Brian C. Chaffin
Associate Professor of Water Policy & Governance
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Office hours: Fall semester by appointment only; please email
- Ben Colman
Associate Professor of Aquatic Ecosystem Ecology
449 Charles H. Clapp Building (CHCB)
e-mail: ben.colman@umontana.edu; Phone: (406) 243-6315
Office hours: Flexible, sign up at: <https://ben-colman.youcanbook.me>
- Meeting Time: Friday, August 27th, 5:30 PM – In front of Forestry Building
Wednesday, September 29th, 5:00 pm, [Zoom](#) (link also on Moodle)
- Credits: 1.0
- Location: This course is entirely field based. We will travel to the Blackfoot Valley, Lubrecht Experimental Forest (University of Montana), and the Swan Valley
- Course Purpose: Field-based learning about conservation exposes students to real-world settings and challenges related to the sustainable use of natural resources for the interrelated benefits of people and ecosystems. The Blackfoot Watershed and the Swan Valley will serve as our field laboratory. Through a combination of field activities, discussions, and readings, students will begin to orient themselves around conservation issues in Western Montana and in the broader biophysical and human landscape of North America. Students will engage first-hand with the ecological and social characteristics of the region, including resource-dependent livelihoods, issues of social and ecological change, and current challenges to building resilience in functional ecosystems and sustainable human communities.
- Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will gain a basic understanding of:
- The unique biophysical environment of Western Montana
 - The land use and livelihood history of the areas visited including past social and ecological changes and potential future disturbances
 - The interrelationships between ecosystem function and human resource use
 - Several landscape-level community-based approaches to natural resource management
 - The impact of water availability and use on both landscape pattern and human communities
 - Natural resource governance jurisdictions, overlaps, and conflicts including those between state, federal, local, and tribal entities in Western Montana
 - The concept of co-management of natural resources
- Required Readings: Please reviewd the course materials on the Moodle page BEFORE our trip.

Statement on safety (adapted from guidelines by Lisa Eby):

We expect that all students and both instructors will follow all UM safety protocols. This includes:

- disinfecting shared use equipment
- using hand sanitizer
- using masks properly for all inside and outside class activities
- practicing physical distancing
- wearing masks when in vehicles
- when in vehicles, disable recirculating mode for vehicle air handling

Please contact the Office for Disability Equity for an accommodation for any safety protocol modification you may need. If students decide not to follow all safety protocols consistently, they will be removed from the field at their own expense, will receive an F for the course, and will be referred to the Dean's office for further review and action.

These precautions are for your safety, our safety, and the safety of the community and will help to minimize any risk of transmission. Secondary contacts of asymptomatic people will likely occur for all of us whether through family, work, socializing, or school. Working to reduce transmission increases the probability that we all stay healthy, be able to maintain all planned face-to-face activities, and the better the class will be for all. That said, we will be prepared to have the activities completed remotely if needed, so if you are feeling sick or have been exposed, please follow UM Policy. Please let us know and we will excuse or allow you to make up any participation points or any points from face to face activities.

If you feel uncomfortable with any proposed activity or if UM cases increase, please reach out and we can accommodate remote learning. Again, this is a novel and ever changing landscape so mutual respect, honest and early communication, and flexibility is needed for us to have a successful semester.

Grading and Course Requirements:

Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only; it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

This course will be graded on the following grading scale: 93-100 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86(B), 80-82 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 73-76 (C), 70-72 (C-), 60-69 (D), <60 (F).

Students are required to attend all class meetings or make up all class sessions through alternative arrangements which will be posted on Moodle. Students are also required to come prepared for the field day (Sept 12th). We will work with students to acquire appropriate gear and plan for the field day, but students must pack their own appropriate personal gear and be prepared to depart on time. Students are also required to respond to specific writing prompts throughout the course which will be released on Moodle.

Grades will be based on the following:

- 60 points – Attendance of and participation in the three-day fieldtrip
- 40 points – Writing prompts over the course of the field trip
- **100 points TOTAL**

Academic Honesty:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at the [Student Conduct Code Link: http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php). Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated; all violations will result in reduced credit for the assignment, zero credit for the assignment, zero-credit for the course, and/or reference to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for further disciplinary action.

Transportation:

Students are allowed to drive their own vehicles to any field trip, but need to communicate with the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the day of the field trip. Students are welcome to, but not required to drive to field learning sites. Students who drive their own vehicles will not be reimbursed for mileage and are covered only by their own auto insurance. If students choose to drive together (car pool), please note the driver is liable for not only themselves but also the passenger (as with any private vehicle). If you have a passenger in your vehicle, we recommend that you follow all safety recommendations for UM group travel:

1. Face masks required in all shared vehicles.
2. If running heat or air conditioning, recirculating vehicle air should be disabled.
3. All occupants of shared vehicles should travel in the same vehicle for the duration of the trip. In cases where driver fatigue occurs, wipe down high touch areas in both seating areas with appropriate disinfectant before switching drivers.

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance and you have not already registered with ODE, please contact them by:

Option 1: Submit [the inquiry form](#)

Option 2: Email them at ode@umontana.edu

Option 3: Call them at (406) 243-2243

Alcohol and Drugs:

Alcohol and any drugs not prescribed by a doctor are strictly PROHIBITED. Students are not permitted to bring any of these substances on the field excursion. STUDENTS CAUGHT WITH ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, will receive an F for the course, and be referred to the Dean's office for further review and action. **There will be no second chances; there will be no discussion.**

Tobacco:

Tobacco products are also PROHIBITED. University of Montana is a Tobacco-Free Campus. Cigarettes, cigars, cloves, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and all similar products are NOT ALLOWED on the field excursion. Students caught with these products will receive a reduced participation grade and be asked to discard all tobacco and smoking related products/paraphernalia.

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Fall 2021:

Deadline	Description	Date
15 th instructional day	Students can drop classes on CyberBear with refund & no "W" on Transcript	Sept 20 before 5 PM
16 th to 45 th instructional day	A class drop requires a form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'W' on transcript, no refund.	Sept 20 after 5PM – Nov 1 before 5 PM
Beginning 46 th instructional day	<u>Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances.</u> Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean (in that order) so if you pursue this request, <i>leave sufficient time to schedule meetings with each of these individuals</i> (generally this will take at least 3-5 working days). A \$10 fee applies if approved. Instructors must indicate whether the individual is Passing or Failing the class at the time of request.	Nov 1 after 5 PM – Dec 10 before 5 PM

Email:

Your UM e-mail is the only way we communicate with you outside of class about University-related and course-related business. You are expected to check, read, and (if necessary) respond to your e-mail on a regular basis.